



## Indiana's Weatherization Programs

The purpose of Indiana's weatherization programs are to:

- Provide energy conservation measures to the homes of Indiana's low-income population
- To preserve and create jobs and promote economic recovery

### Important Upcoming Dates

- Early to Mid April - Extension and Funding Amendments Due  
*ARRA sub-grantees must submit their decisions for extensions and additional or reduced funding to Donna at: [dowright@ihcda.in.gov](mailto:dowright@ihcda.in.gov)*
- April 30 - Claims review complete for all ARRA CAP sub-grantees  
*Clearance letters or a review form will be sent to Executive Directors by April 30*
- May 2 - Benchmark Review  
*IHCDA will review production through April 30, 2011 based on submitted revised benchmarks*
- May 3 - ARRA Hours Created/Retained Due  
*ARRA sub-grantees must submit job hours created and retained for April by Tuesday, May 3 at 5:00pm EST.*
- May 31 - Benchmark Review  
*IHCDA will review production through May 31, 2011 based on submitted revised benchmarks*
- June 3 - ARRA Hours Created/Retained Due  
*ARRA sub-grantees must submit job hours created and retained for April by Friday, June 3 at 5:00pm EST.*

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WEATHERIZATION PROGRAMS

# The Weatherization Xpress

## Letter from Paul Krievins:

I hope you have had the chance to look at the most recent PRISM/BEACon savings numbers. I'm excited and I hope you are excited, too. In 2008-2009, Indiana increased its statewide average natural gas savings on homes from 17 percent to nearly 20 percent. For the clients we serve, this translates to an extra \$200 in their pockets. Those savings on their energy bills mean that they can avoid some further painful cuts to their household budgets.

In this edition of *The WX*, we also applaud those auditors and agencies recognized as top energy savers and review the findings of the billing analysis report produced by INCAA. We also focus articles on improving our weatherization programs from an administrative perspective. We review lessons learned from our recent attendance at the NASCSP conference and outline interagency administrative procedural changes.

I thank each and every one of you for making this program the success that it is.

-Paul



## Gimme Shelter: Update

In our last issue of *The WX*, we introduced you to our shelter repair and weatherization project. As you recall, this project combines community development block grant (CDBG) funding for structural repairs with weatherization funding so that shelters across the state can concentrate their resources on services instead of maintenance and energy bills. In this issue, we check in with Project Manager Eric Curtis for an update.

Eric Curtis already has seen a lot during his short time as project manager for the shelter repair and weatherization project. Some of the sites have been good, such as the shelter in Evansville that served meals to 10,000 people in need during the past year. Or the shelter that lobbied the local government for a waiver so that they could take in an extra 150 people from the streets during the frigid winter weather. Or the appreciative staff and volunteer force that he met on his 4,000 mile trek to each of the 41 shelters across the state.

However, Eric has also seen a lot of bad conditions, such as the shelter that has to use trashcans to catch rain water leaking from the roof into living areas. And the shelter that has only two working stoves out of the 16 available. And the one that attempts to keep up on maintenance issues by hav-

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ing Ivy Tech to use it as a practice site for students.

More than anything else, Eric has seen the impact that the shelter repair and weatherization project has the potential to do. Eric acknowledges the talent of the shelter staff and volunteers that make them run as well as they can without a lot of funding. He is excited about the prospect of enabling shelters to divert funds from maintenance and energy bills to client services. "I can't wait to help out and make money stretch at the shelters we serve," he says.

And there are many to serve. In all, there are 41 shelters participating in this project. They comprise 78 individual buildings that yield 561 units (a "unit" is defined as 800 square feet), and are located in 27 cities in 25 counties in all corners of the state.

Not only are the shelters scattered across the state, their age, condition, heat source, and building type varies as well. The oldest building receiving work through this program was built in 1890. Some shelters are in good shape, with only minor air quality issues. Others, as described before, desperately

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CLIENT FILES:  
Warming Homes and  
Hearts

Each edition of *The WX* features a piece written by someone close to Indiana’s weatherization programs—the client.

“To Whom It May Concern,

“We would like to express our extreme gratitude to the workers of weatherization. We have had your company in our home for several weeks now and we really appreciate the respect that the men have given my wife and I on a regular basis.

“They have been exceptionally courteous and willing to help 110 percent. It really takes the burden off of us just knowing that long awaited tasks are getting accomplished at our home. The workers have made us feel very comfortable and at ease to have them around. They do not hesitate to make sure things are getting done promptly.

“We would strongly recommend the weatherization program to others, if needed. We take great comfort in knowing that there are people, such as your employees to help those in need.

“Thank you again for all you have done.”

-Satisfied WICAA Client

Send your stories to:  
chwininger@ihcda.in.gov



The  
Monitoring  
Report:

Investigating conflict of interest policies, fraud, and procurement procedures

During the last few months, community action monitors from IH-CDA have uncovered some serious problems with conflict of interest policies and procurement procedures. This article addresses the issues the monitors found and how to correct them at your agency.

Conflicts of Interest

A conflict of interest occurs when an individual or company is in a position to exploit a professional or official capacity in some way for their personal or corporate gain. To better illustrate what a conflict of interest could be, consider the types below:

- *Self-dealing*, in which a person in the official capacity of his or her job enters in to a deal that benefits that person. In other words, the person making the deal is on both sides of it.
- *Family interests*, in which a spouse, child, or other close relative is employed by, or has a stake in, a company that does business with a relative.

Conflict of interest issues are taken very seriously when utilizing federal funds and can occur in all areas, including: inspecting work; selecting contractors, paying contractors, approving payments, approving change orders, and issuing work assignments— to name a few! The seriousness of the matter can be seen in the consequences— required re-inspection of affected work, paying back all involved funds, or, potentially, termination of an agency’s contract. IH-CDA *strongly* recommends that everyone involved in program oversight— executive directors, program managers, and others— review agency procedures and contracts for conflicts of interest.

For more information about what constitutes a conflict of interest or the resulting consequences, refer to your grant agreements of OMB Circular 110-A.

Keep in mind that a conflict of interest can exist even if there are no improper acts because of it; to avoid such conflicts, thorough procurement procedures should be in place.

Fraud

Fraud can occur during several stages of the weatherization process and is something for which all of IH-CDA’s monitoring teams are on the look out. The most common occurrences of fraud happen when invoices are paid for weatherization measures are either not performed or not performed to the extent indicated on the invoice. Consider the examples below in which all parties—contractors and sub-grantees— commit fraud:

- A contractor bills a sub-grantee for materials and labor to install 10 fluorescent light bulbs. A box of light bulbs is left on a client’s kitchen table for him or her to install. The sub-grantee pays the invoice. Issue: the contractor was paid for services never rendered.
- A sub-grantee weatherizes a multi-family apartment complex. Since the work in each apartment is similar, all work orders and invoices are the same. In one apartment, the

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Weatherization Evaluation Report

duct pan test reveals all the Every year, INCAA conducts a billing analysis to determine how much energy and money our clients save after the installation of weatherization materials through our program. Below are some fun facts pulled from most recent report for 2008-2009— ask your program manager or Dan Phillips at INCAA for the full report.

Prior to weatherization, the average client consumed 964 +/- 15 therms annually. After weatherization, our clients, on average, saved

221 +/- 8 therms annually. This translates into an average 19.2 percent reduction in natural gas consumption!

The measures with the largest annual savings in therms are:

- Insulating uninsulated walls
- Furnace replacement for energy efficiency reasons
- Insulating the foundation
- Insulating an uninsulated attic
- Furnace replacement for health and safety reasons.

The measures with the lowest an-

nual savings in therms are:

- Cook stove replacement
- Furnace repair for health and safety reasons
- Furnace repair for energy efficiency reasons
- Furnace tune-up
- Belly blow.

The average auditor completed 38 homes during the evaluation period (see the sidebar on this page for top energy saving auditors).

Twenty-five percent of all auditors completed at least 65 homes. The most productive auditor completed

ALL STAR AUDITORS  
and AGENCIES

IHCDA wants to recognize those auditors and agencies that achieved the highest average percent energy savings during the 2008-2009 program evaluation conducted by INCAA.

Below is a list of the top energy saving auditors and their average percent savings. Join us in applauding their achievement!

Top Auditors:

1. Jay Lincoln, 31.8%
2. Terry Crowe, 31.2%
3. Mike Devore & Randy Madlung, 29.7%
4. Loren Ridge, 29.3%
5. Adam Bohacik, 28.7%
6. Steve Osborne, 27.9%
7. Eric Norsinskay, 27.5%
8. Bill Nallenweg, 27.3%

All agencies reduced natural gas consumption in the homes they weatherized by at least 15 percent during the 2008-2009 evaluation period. Good job!

Below is a list of agencies that achieved at least 30 percent savings in natural gas consumption during the evaluation period. Great work!

Top Agencies:

- Pace Community Action Agency
- Community Action of Greater Indianapolis
- Area V Agency

Show Me the Money!

Today, April 8th, is the deadline for the U.S. House of Representatives to pass a budget resolution for the 2011 fiscal year. For Congress, no budget could mean shutting down the government, passing another continuing resolution, and continuing budget talks. For weatherization staff, no federal budget means even more questions.

Q: What happens to our weatherization programs if Congress does not approve a budget today?

A: For those agencies with ARRA funds, you may continue claiming money from IH-CDA as usual. Because these funds have already been allocated, they are not subject to the current budget negotiations. Congress cannot take away these funds or reallocate them elsewhere.

For those agencies waiting on their annual DOE allocation, a continuing resolution or government shutdown means that you will continue to wait on your grant. IH-CDA cannot issue contracts until we receive a state allocation from DOE, who must receive a national allocation from Congress.

Q: How long will it take for us to receive our annual DOE allocation contracts once Congress passes a budget?

A: IH-CDA has contracts ready for each sub-grantee. Once we get our state allocation from DOE, it will take us

about a week to break it down into sub-grantee allocations, insert the new grant amounts into the contracts, and send them to sub-grantees.

Q: I've heard rumors that weatherization spending was stripped from the budget. Is that true?

A: Sort of. The budget proposed by the U.S. House for the umbrella office (EERE) under which weatherization falls decreased by \$786.3 million dollars; however, the budgets proposed by the Senate and the President increase funding to EERE. EERE could still fund weatherization with part of its remaining budget, though likely at lower levels.

Q: Is there anything I can do?

A: Yes! Call, write, and email your Congressman! To find your U.S. Representative and his contact information, visit: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).